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Commissioner

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Commissioner

Catherine M. Waters, R.N., Ph.D.
Commissioner

HEALTH COMMISSION

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MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION
COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 19 2011 2:00 p.m.
101 Grove, Room 302, San Francisco, CA 94102

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Margine Sako, Chair
Commissioner James M. Illig, Member
Commissioner Catherine Waters R.N., Ph.D., Member
Commissioner Chow

2) APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 21, 2011 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Action Taken: The minutes of the June 21, 2011 Community and Public Health Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

3) UPDATE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN SAN FRANCISCO

John Brown MD, Medical Director of the San Francisco EMS Agency, gave the presentation. Lisa Hoffman, Deputy Director of The Department of Emergency Management, Jeff Myers, Fire Department Assistant Deputy Chief, and Rob Dudgeon, Director, Division of Emergency Services, were also present to answer questions.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Sako asked if an individual's medical status impacts a hospital's diversion status. Dr. Brown stated that trauma and emergency cases are sent to the nearest appropriate hospital regardless of diversion status.

Commissioner Chow asked whether the newest ambulance policy has been implemented. Dr. Brown stated that he has been working on a letter to the Hospital Council and the Emergency Physicians Association to get the new policy effectively implemented. Commissioner Sako requested that Dr.

Brown send a copy of this letter to Mr. Morewitz so that he may forward it to the Committee members.

Commissioner Sako asked if there has been a problem with ambulances having to circle around the city due to the number of hospitals on diversion. Dr Brown stated that anecdotally he does not know of a problem in this area but no one has yet analyzed this data. He stated that several new requisitions for quality assurance positions have been approved and when new personnel are hired, more data analysis can be completed.

Commissioner Chow requested that the topic of SFGH diversion and patient flow be discussed at a future SFGH JCC meeting.

Commissioner Sako asked how the high utilizers of multiple systems (HUMS) are entering into the service system. Dr. Brown stated that this population is often picked up by the MAP van or an ambulance and taken to a sobering center or medical facility, depending on their medical situation. Director Garcia stated that the DPH is currently working on restructuring how the MAP vans are utilized to most effectively use this resource.

Commissioner Sako stated that she encourages the system to strive to use the lowest level of appropriate transportation and would like to see data in this regard on future reports.

Dr. Brown stated that he will begin to submit quarterly reports in October, 2011. By April, data will be available for analysis which can be presented in July, 2012.

Commissioner Sako asked how patient satisfaction and event reporting is processed and the mechanisms in which EMS responds to both. Dr. Brown stated that there are several sources of event reporting data including through patient complaints made directly to EMS, providers, or the Mayor's Office. This data is tracked through the Exception Reporting System until the issues are resolved. In regard to the client satisfaction data, Dr. Brown stated that EMS will add in some type of client self-report and will include this data in future updates to the Committee.

Commissioner Sako requested that when the DPH makes its presentation on Emergency Preparedness and Response to the full Health Commission, it should incorporate activities and data related to EMS medical services.

4) ANALYZING THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF PROPOSED LABOR STANDARDS FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS: FINDINGS FROM A HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT(HIA) OF AB 889

Megan Gaydos, Planning and Policy Analyst, Program on Health, Equity, and Sustainability, and Rajiv Bhatia M.D., Director of Environmental Health and OSH, made the presentation.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up

Commissioner Melara asked the role of the DPH in this analysis. Dr. Bhatia stated that the DPH has been conducting health impact studies for over ten years. Advocacy organizations that have partnered with the DPH on issues with this population suggested this particular HIA.

Commissioner Sako asked how the HIA was funded. Dr. Bhatia stated that CDC funded the basic research and the rest was funded through the Section's general mandate.

Commissioner Melara stated that she is interested in how the DPH chooses the projects in which to conduct HIAs that may impact legislation. Director Garcia stated Colleen Chawla, the new Director of Policy and Planning, will assist other DPH Divisions to best prioritize resources related to policy and will insure that appropriate issues are brought to the Commission for review.

Commissioner Sako stated that future presentation formats should emphasize the data and make clear whether the legislation has been passed.

Commissioner Chow stated that the presentation seems to promote the legislation instead of an objective review of the data. Commissioner Melara stated that it would be most helpful to have had information on the measures in the legislation that were taken out so that the members of the Committee could have a full understanding of all the issues related to the legislation.

Director Garcia stated that the Health Commission should determine policy priorities. Future DPH presentations should include objective data that gives a full perspective on an issue so the Health Commission can decide best to advise the DPH to move forward with policy activities. In addition, she stated that in the future, all presentations made to the Health Commission by DPH staff should first be sent to Ms. Chawla and Director Garcia for review.

5) EMERGING ISSUES

This item was not discussed.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51pm.